ABSTRACT

To decrease costs in decoding a digital image signal.
An image signal decoding apparatus stores forward reference

5   frame data to be used for a decoding process in frame memories
of a main memory provided in a common division, and also stores
the frame data highly likely to be used for a motion compensation
process in a motion compensation memory provided in a decoding
processing division.   Accordingly, it is possible, by sharing

10   the main memory, to decrease manufacturing costs of the image
signal decoding apparatus compared with the cases of providing
dedicated frame memories for storing a current frame data and
a forward reference frame data inside the decoding processing
division respectively.   In addition, it is possible to reduce

15   power consumption during a decoding process compared with the
cases of providing the dedicated frame memories.